

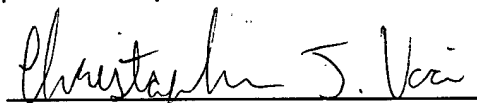
REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner has allowed the pending claims in this application and thank the Examiner for his repeated phone conferences regarding this application.

In reviewing, the Notice of Allowance, it came to the attention of the Applicants that the Examiner had not marked several of the references listed in the IDS as having been considered. In particular, the Examiner did not consider several of the foreign patents and publications, as well as several of the printed publications. Applicants believed that this was in error and contacted the Examiner. The Examiner agreed that the references should have been considered because copies of those references had been submitted with the IDS. Unfortunately, the references had become separated from the file and could not be located.

Applicants offered to provide duplicate copies of the misplaced references and the Examiner agreed to consider these references without the need an additional IDS. Applicants have enclosed the references for the Examiner's consideration. Applicants again thank the Examiner for his attention to this matter. Applicants believe that the present claims continue to be patentable in view of all the references cited and ask that the Examiner acknowledge such by returning the enclosed forms to the Applicants at the Examiner's earliest possible convenience. Please note the new mailing address for the Applicants' representative.

Date: 11/1/04



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